

For more information call 1-800-MEDICARE, or go online to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call senior services.

Sign up now and begin coverage in June. Otherwise you will have to wait until January to begin this new benefit. Join our over 30 million seniors and begin saving now.

#### TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, it is a big day inside the Beltway here, the long-anticipated Republican tax cuts are here, the fifth of the Bush Presidency. You would think with huge deficits maybe they would reconsider; but no, they are plowing ahead. Tonight, rivers of champagne will flow in corporate board rooms across America.

Under this bill, we will borrow \$70 billion and immediately give \$50 billion of it to wealthy investors. We will borrow \$70 billion and give \$50 billion to wealthy investors in big tax breaks to those who clip coupons off dividend-paying stocks and capital gains.

A person who earns \$40,000 a year, they might get a \$20 break under this bill. But those who earn \$5 million, \$82,000 off their tax bill. It is a great country. Yet Republicans couldn't find room in this bill for a tuition tax deduction. They had to bump that out. You know, these are tough times, people have to sacrifice; not the people in the board rooms and not the wealthy investors, but middle class America who want their kids to get an education. They couldn't fit it in the bill.

They are discriminating against wages and salary earners and favoring the investors with lower tax breaks. They are borrowing money and handing the bill to people who work for wages and salaries. I don't think that it is that they really hate wage and salary earners, they just favor the wealthy who fund their campaigns.

#### TACKLING THE NATION'S ENERGY POLICIES

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the high gas prices and energy costs that we are experiencing now demonstrate more than ever we have to increase the urgency of achieving U.S. oil independence from foreign sources of oil. Congress needs to work faster to develop new fuel choices and achieve fuel savings.

I am a cosponsor of the Fuel Choices for American Security Act. Our legislation initiates a plan to achieve U.S. oil savings of 2.5 million barrels per day by 2015. That is the amount of oil we currently import from the Middle East every day.

Our plan is committed to developing alternative energy courses and renewable fuels. It will create better market incentives to use the resources and technology already available here in America to develop new fuel choices and bring them to consumers faster.

As long as the U.S. dependence on foreign oil continues to increase, gas prices will continue to increase as well.

Looking backward and using high gas prices to launch political attacks gives us no solution to the Nation's energy problems. Political maneuvers are not an energy policy. Looking forward by passing this bipartisan legislation is the correct approach to implementing the initiatives we need to tackle the Nation's energy problems. Let us commit ourselves to the American consumer and not to politics.

#### AMT BECOMES ATM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, nothing spells out the political cynicism and misplaced Republican priorities better than the tax bill we are about to vote upon. More assistance to the people in the top one-tenth of a percent whose burden has actually fallen 25 percent since Bush took office, the over-million-dollar crowd will get an additional \$40,000 a year for the next 10 years.

But the Republican leadership and the Bush administration is playing Russian roulette with the alternative minimum tax and the 15.3 million families whose only sin is to pay taxes, pay their mortgage and raise their families. Every year more of them fall into a trap, and each year the Republican leadership fails to make a long-term fix a priority. They would rather play politics with the favored few.

This misguided priority is shameful, as Medicare and Medicaid deficits widen and the national debt increases. The alternative minimum tax, the AMT, has become an ATM to finance more tax cuts for people who need it least and put at risk 33 million American families who will fall into the AMT tax trap by 2010 when the house of cards comes crashing down.

#### AL QAEDA DISORGANIZATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Associated Press reported from Baghdad that recently discovered al Qaeda and Iraq documents demonstrate that the terrorists are "concerned about disorganization within their cells in the capital area, with one extremist describing them as simply a 'daily annoyance' to the Iraqi government."

In one document, a terrorist complains that "the Americans and the

Iraqi government forces 'were able to absorb our painful blows,' raise new recruits and 'take control of Baghdad as well as other areas, one after the other.'"

Another terrorist complained about "the strength of brothers in Baghdad and is based mostly on car bombs and groups of assassins lacking any organized military capabilities."

These documents demonstrate that courageous American troops and Iraqi security forces are breaking the will of the terrorists in Iraq to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

#### GAS PRICES DIRECT RESULT OF FAILED POLICIES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today's record gas prices are the direct result of 5 years of failed policies by the Bush administration and this Republican Congress.

We seem to be more interested in giving still more tax breaks to oil executives than providing real relief to American consumers. Rather than proposing policies that would aggressively confront our energy challenges, Republicans are once again pushing to drill in ANWR. They neglect to say that drilling in ANWR would not be possible for another decade and would only provide about 6 months of oil for the American consumer.

House Republicans are also suggesting waiving environmental laws to encourage new refinery construction. But all of the major oil companies have already testified that environmental laws are not what is preventing them from building more refineries. It is more personally profitable to pay out lower-taxed-dividends than invest retained earnings in refineries.

So along with the silly \$100 rebate, this is another proposal from House Republicans that will do nothing to reduce prices at the pump today. But the American consumer is beginning to realize it is time to try something new. It is time for a change in leadership.

□ 1015

#### MEXICO HARSHER ON ILLEGALS THAN U.S.

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, street protests revealed a lot about the hypocrisy of Mexico. With a great deal of bluster and self-righteousness, the protestors objected to the House-approved border security bill.

They said it was "too harsh."

They said it was "draconian."

They said we shouldn't criminalize 11 million illegal immigrants.